

# Black History Month

February 2012



*“During National African American History Month, we recognize the extraordinary achievements of African Americans and their essential role in shaping the story of America. In honor of their courage and contributions, let us resolve to carry forward together the promise of America for our children.” - President Barack Obama*

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONORS LEGACY OF STRUGGLE AND TRIUMPH

Washington - Each February, Black History Month honors the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens over the most devastating obstacles - slavery, prejudice, poverty - as well as their contributions to the nation’s cultural and political life.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, African Americans make up about 14 percent of the U.S. population and comprise the second-largest minority group, after Hispanics.

The election of Barack Obama, America’s first African-American president, continues to lend Black History Month a special significance. In his inaugural address, President Obama acknowledged the historical importance of a moment in which “a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.”

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Full Article:

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2007/01/20070126175516xlrennef0.8811151.html#axz z1l0NxtUmY>

## U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS



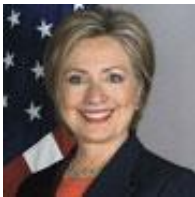
### **Presidential Proclamation -- National African American History Month, 2012** [Source: White House]

The story of African Americans is a story of resilience and perseverance. It traces a people who refused to accept the circumstances under which they arrived on these shores, and it chronicles the generations who fought for an America that truly reflects the ideals enshrined in our founding documents. It is the narrative of slaves who shepherded others along the path to freedom and preachers who organized against the rules of Jim Crow, of young people who sat-in at lunch counters and ordinary men and women who took extraordinary risks to change our Nation for the better. During National African American History Month, we celebrate the rich legacy of African Americans and honor the remarkable contributions they have made to perfecting our Union.



### **Presidential Proclamation -- Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday** [Source: White House]

On a hot summer day nearly half a century ago, an African American preacher with no official title or rank gave voice to our Nation's deepest aspirations, sharing his dream of an America that ensured the true equality of all our people. From the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspired a movement that would push our country toward a more perfect Union.



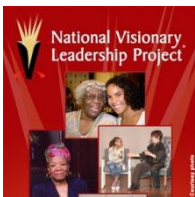
### **(Will be updated) Secretary Clinton's Video Message for the International Year for People of African Descent** [Source: U.S. Department of State]

The United Nations and the Organization of American States have named 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent. This is an opportunity for all of us around the globe to celebrate the diversity of our societies and to honor the contributions that our fellow citizens of African descent make every day to the economic, social and political fabrics of our communities.



### **A New Generation of Black Women Leaders** [Source: Source: IIP Digital]

Today's African-American women leaders excel in a variety of fields, taking advantage of opportunities that earlier generations never dreamed of. Learn what Elizabeth Alexander, Joan Higginbotham, Lynn Nottage, Jurnee Smollett, Susan Rice and Mary Spio have achieved and how they did it.



### **Visionaries: African Americans Tell Their Stories** [Source: America.gov Archive]

For nearly a decade, the nonprofit National Visionary Leadership Project (NVLP) collected the oral histories of extraordinary African-American elders who helped shape America's culture and history. NVLP recorded interviews with more than 200 people, ranging from ordinary citizens to renowned artists, politicians and civil rights leaders.

The recordings are archived at the Library of Congress American Folklife Center, and clips from the interviews can be seen on the NVLP website. This photo gallery offers a selection of clips featuring Dorothy Height, Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, Carmen de Lavallade, Odetta and Coretta Scott King.



### **A Living Book: Beyond Dr. King**

**[Source: America.gov Archive]**

More stories of African-American achievement. We'll post the first chapters here at regular intervals and we ask readers to suggest future chapters we will include in the Living Book. Leave your thoughts and suggestions in the comment area.



### **Black Media Timeline: Freedom's Message**

**[Source: America.gov Archive]**

In most Southern states, teaching slaves to read was a crime punishable by fines, whipping or imprisonment. Yet some white people taught slaves to read and write, and literate slaves taught others. By 1827 there were enough literate slaves and freedmen to warrant the publication of a newspaper owned and operated by African Americans, Freedom's Journal. Numerous publications followed, which became critical catalysts for slavery's abolition, equality and civil rights.



### **Black History Month Honors Legacy of Struggle and Triumph**

**[Source: IIP Digital]**

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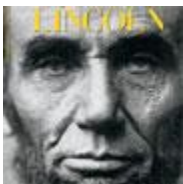
## **USG PUBLICATIONS**



### **Free At Last – The U.S. Civil Rights Movement**

**[Source: America.gov Archive]**

A history of the contemporary civil rights movement in the United States, including a chronology of key events, brief biographical information on two centuries of African-American leaders, and excerpts from King's speeches and writings.



### **Abraham Lincoln: A Legacy of Freedom**

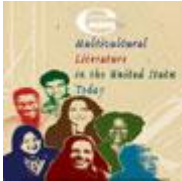
**[Source: America.gov Archive]**

The year 2009 marks the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the nation's 16th president, and the man often considered its greatest leader. As the United States endured its greatest crisis, this self-educated common man supplied the leadership and the moral force that bound Americans together and carried them to victory.



### **Justice for All: The Legacy of Thurgood Marshall** **[Source: America.gov Archive]**

This publication provides a tribute to the legacy of Thurgood Marshall through an examination of Marshall's key role in the history of desegregation. It focuses on his position as lead counsel for the NAACP assigned to argue *Brown v Board of Education* before the Supreme Court and his subsequent influence as a member of the Court.



### **Multicultural Literature in the United States Today** **[Source: America.gov Archive]**

The United States is enriched culturally by immigrants from many nations. This edition of eJournal USA focuses on distinguished American writers from various ethnic backgrounds who add immeasurably to mutual understanding and appreciation through tales of their native lands and their experiences as Americans.

## **USEFUL LINKS**

White House: Black History Month 2011

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/black-history-month-2011>

U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs: Black History Month

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/mobile/2011/02/201102021304250.4336468.html#axzz110NxtUmY>

Census Bureau – Facts for Features: Black History Month 2011

[http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts\\_for\\_features\\_special\\_editions/cb12-ff01.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff01.html)

Library of Congress: African American History Month

<http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/>

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

<http://www.naACP.org/content/main/>

National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)

<http://www.nmaahc.si.edu/>

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

<http://www.asalh.org/>

National Urban League

<http://www.nul.org/>

Academy of Achievement

[http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/pagegen/curriculum/civil\\_rights01/cr\\_landing.html](http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/pagegen/curriculum/civil_rights01/cr_landing.html)